

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting

October 18, 2022 - 05:00 PM

City Hall Room 132

Members: Hannah Jenkins, Max Dalton, Indigo Davitt- Liu, **Meron Demissie, Mark Dhennin, Tess Dornfeld**, Divine Islam, Mathew Douglas-May, **Sandy Fazeli, Lauren Fleming**, Maddie Henderson, **LesLee Jackson**, Anna Johnson, **Toya Lopez, Barbara Lunde, Nicholas Minderman**, Erin Niehoff, **Suzanne Savanick Hansen**, Jaqueline Zepeda (Quorum - 10)

Staff: Bjorn Olson & Kim Havey

Guests: Anthony Johnson, Twin Cities Business owner Pedal Pub, Ariana Humphrey School student, Council Member Chughtai

Call to Order

1. Roll Call.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Acceptance of minutes
 1. Moved by Barbara, seconded by Tess. Motion passes with Sandy abstention

[September 20, 2022 Community Environmental Advisory Commission](#)

Consent

Location:
Minneapolis City Hall
350 S 5th St. Room 132

Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous and Black people in our community.

Little Earth Section 8 housing is included in the Roof Depot/Hiawatha Project

Minnetonka Moccasin and designer Lucie Skjefte will donate proceeds from sales to MIGIZI, a Native American non-profit organization.

Lisa Skjefte, an Anishinaabe from the Red Lake Nation and Vice President of Community Impact and Engagement at the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, is running for one of two at-large seats on the Minneapolis school board.

The Cherokee Nation is calling on federal congressional leadership to grant a delegate to the House of Representative according to the 1835 Treaty of New Echota.

Mináǵi kiŋ dowáŋ: a Zitkála-Šá opera is written, composed, and sung by an all-Indigenous team and will show from October 21 – 23 at the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center in St. Paul.

Presentations:

None

Discussion:

Welcome Council Member Chughtai

Council Member Chughtai thanked the Commission for having her this evening. The majority of Council members are new under a new city structure that's still being understood and implemented. While the loss of previous climate champions is felt deeply, Council is advancing climate issues and environmental justice in a few areas. One is the Clean Energy Partnership, in which council member Chughtai is a voting member, where Minneapolis works with CenterPoint and Xcel to meet our city's climate goals. The council member is working on a more aggressive relationship toward curbing GHG emissions. Another example is the Hennepin Ave reconstruction project. Climate work is transit work, infrastructure work, and resilience work and is for working class people. Helping to make the connections between street infrastructure and economic justice and climate justice issues is a shift in how we talk about these issues and who we center in these conversations. The investment in the corridor has almost tripled and measuring climate goals is an important part of how we approach these issues. The Roof Depot and Hiawatha Expansion project are glaring and important issues to talk about. The council member has relationships with East Phillips Neighborhood Institute and Little Earth communities. The poor choices the City has made on this project and how it impacts people's life experiences was important to the council member and changing the Ward 10 position to align with the community was an important commitment.

Sandy Fazeli appreciated the CM's efforts on Hiawatha Project. How can Council prevent neglecting the voice of the community again?

CM: This is a question we ask all the time. When we look to the community and what they want and decision-makers choose to not listen, it's disappointing and demoralizing as a policymaker and a citizen. But we can't stop. Our issues lose when we walk away; we need to build for the next fight.

Barbara Lunde: The plans of reducing carbon are not going to be implemented as quickly as we'd like. We need to keep building codes, road infrastructure, etc., in mind as we move forward.

CM: "Resilience" is a key component of what our climate work needs to look like. The council member remembers emergency disaster relief training for wildfire smoke in the summer of 2021. What would it look like for our infrastructure to serve as emergency space for poor air quality?

Toya Lopez: How can CEAC and Sustainability partner with Health Department priorities of contamination, pollutants, etc.? High heat days are an issue as well.

CM: In the restructuring, Sustainability will be in the Health Department.

Kim Havey: We'd love to incorporate health metrics into air quality, resiliency, and climate change.

Nick Minderman: With the Hennepin Ave. outcome, what do you see as ideal and how can CEAC best play a role in being helpful?

CM: Different Boards and Commissions show up differently in this time of transition. The council member meets once a month with the Trans-Equity Commission staffer and once a year they send a policy agenda to Council they'd like to discuss. They ask for authors and allies to move things through committees. This environmental work touches more than just sustainability and relates to public works and other departments. We can have a deeper relationship with this administration. Council study

sessions are opportunities to dive deeper on topics where staff is present and it's open to the public. The next one is municipal removal of snow and ice; Housing gave a presentation on encampment sweeps.

LesLee Jackson: Has Council considered any action on soil loss and increasing inspections? This also affects air quality and includes lead issues.

CM: Has not heard of this issue before. Interested in learning more about it.

Toya Lopez: What is City capacity to support Commissioners in Advisory Committees? As we want to increase representation, there are barriers to engagement and attendance. Stipends, culturally sensitive mentorship for the new structure, and other options would help retain and attract the diverse perspectives that are necessary.

CM: I am a firm believer in compensation for time. There are similar conversations happening around police boards and commissions that are having issues, including participation, leadership development, certifications, etc.

Lauren Fleming: Hybrid meetings would definitely help with engagement and attendance.

CM: We've been told this is an Intergovernmental issue that is being worked on at the State level. Our technical capabilities also play into this, but we've heard this from other groups as well.

Tess Dornfeld: Some Council Members expressed deferment to Ward Council representatives in the past, this doesn't seem to be the case now.

CM: There used to be a practice of deferring to Council Members who represent the Ward with the project in it, but that doesn't necessarily seem to be the case now. While most day-to-day work is based on Committee assignments, the council member takes her constituency issues more seriously than those in other wards and constituents can drive projects and issues.

Nick Minderman: The Sustainable Building Policy and Climate Equity Plan have been discussed here. What key things can CEAC do to provide helpful guidance to Council on these issues to achieve more of a broader consensus and stronger Council vote?

CM: Sometimes 7-6 votes are unavoidable and that's ok. Doing easy work is not doing meaningful work. For the Climate Equity Plan, it would help to have a set of outcomes we want, what they mean, and how to make a case for them. Council members receive 2-3 postcards a week about the MN350 climate plan; the council member is here because Lauren reached out. That kind of communication with Council Members is not too much to ask, it is a citizen's right to do that. There currently isn't a super organized climate organization moving issues forward in a long-term timeline, this group could help with that need.

Sandy Fazeli: Federal climate funds are coming, is Council thinking about strategic climate and infrastructure goals?

CM: Council is not thinking about that yet. Senior leadership in Public Works have ideas as well as state and county leaders, but if there's one thing to fund it would be the redevelopment of Kmart and re-opening the Nicollet Avenue corridor. We should look to the future for large scale infrastructure and development that could have those kinds of impacts.

Remaining topics for 2022

Interest in HERC and reducing emissions. May be worth an update with Hennepin County, Congresswoman Omar's position and efforts, and where the City can exert influence.

- Waste audit based on location and type?
- What is the plan for hazardous waste and E-waste?
- Conversation about de-commissioning?

Year in review for December meeting.

List of future topics on what the City needs to hear our voice on. Having a proactive policy agenda vs reactive.

2023 CEAC membership recruitment strategy

Old Business

Opportunities to engage:

- Interest in Resilient Cities & Communities Water Quality initiative

Updates and Announcements from Commissioners and staff

- Applications are being take now for the [Green Cost Share program](#)
 - Lawn care and landscaping equipment
 - Auto body shop paint conversion
 - Diesel emission reduction opportunities

Possible Future CEAC Meeting Topics:

- Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act
- Air monitoring networks in Minneapolis
- Better coordination with MPRB
- Carbon Free Zones and fossil gas free development
- How to reduce plastic in the community?
- How do we reduce emissions from the HERC?
- Electrical heating technologies

Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. After 6pm the S 5th Street doors (light rail side) to City Hall are locked. Bus passes and parking passes for the Haaf Ramp are available.

Motion to adjourn: Nick Minderman made a motion to adjourn. Toya Lopez seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: November 15, 2022 from 5-7 PM

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-2563 or e-mail sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.